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LIMPKIN IRRUPTION IN TENNESSEE

Wade Baker
Jackson, Tennessee

Limpkins (*Aramus guarana*) are medium-sized wading birds native to Florida and south into Central and South America (Figure 1). Prior to 2021, Tennessee had 3 historical records in 1961 (Morlan 1961), 1999 (Ford and Wyss 1999), and 2017 (Huffines 2018) in Davidson, Haywood, and Marion counties respectively. Observations of each were difficult due to the inaccessibility of their location. In 2021, however, a Limpkin was reported at the Duck River Unit of the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge in Humphreys County in a location easily accessed by many birders.

Figure 1. Limpkin in Dyer County, 10 May 2023.

Since 2021, Tennessee has had reports in Shelby, Fayette, Dyer, Lake, Gibson, Haywood, Hardeman, Perry, Humphreys, Benton, Stewart, Montgomery, Davidson, Maury, Rutherford, Warren, Roane, Anderson, Polk, Blount, and Monroe counties, totaling approximately 51 individual birds. Over 30 of those birds were observed in 2023. These birds were seen in small numbers of one or two birds. In October of 2023, Ruben Stoll found the new record high count with 6 birds scattered across Duck River Unit. Less than two weeks later, Zach McClay and I were birding at Duck River and found nine Limpkins standing on the same log (Figure 2). We then moved to other areas of the refuge and ended the day with a total of 12 Limpkins. Upon looking at reports, it's believed that there were as many as 35 Limpkin present at various locations within the refuge.

Figure 2. Nine Limpkin present on one log within Duck River Unit TNWR.

In 2023 was the start of an irruption, or more aptly an explosion, of sightings of Limpkins across the United States, not just Tennessee. At date of writing this article, Limpkins have shown up in approximately 27 U.S. states and 2 Canadian Provinces.

This explosion may be in part due to the expanding population and range of the invasive apple snail (particularly *Pomacea maculata*). Limpkins' populations rapidly increased with that of the apple snails. Since these birds feed almost exclusively on apple snails, expanding into states which don't have these snails has required the birds to adapt. The Duck River bird was observed eating mussels and freshwater snails. On the Hatchie River in Hardeman and Haywood counties, Limpkins were observed foraging most frequently on aquatic snails (likely *Viviparus* spp) and Yellow Sandshell (*Lampilis teres*) mussels, and occasionally, crayfish (species unidentified). When foraging on Yellow Sandshells, the Limpkins in both

Hatchie locations would toss the mussel onto the bank, continue to forage, then return to the mussel a few minutes later. Apparently, after a few minutes the mussels would open their shells a little because of the heat of the sun allowing Limpkins to open them more easily (Naomi Van Tol, Bob Ford, pers comm). Their diets vary with opportunity. A Limpkin in Colorado was observed and photographed feeding on earthworms (Beatty 2023).

By the end of December 2023, there were no more reports of Limpkins in Tennessee. As a tropical and sub-tropical species, it's possible that winters, even mild ones, could have had a negative effect on these birds and their tendency to vagrancy. It will be interesting to see how the status of this species progresses in the coming years (see for example Minetor 2022 and Silcock and Jorgensen 2024). Will we see another invasion? Where will they irrupt next? Regardless of questions, answers, and lack thereof, it's been an interesting vagrancy pattern enjoyed by many observers.

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FERRUGINOUS HAWK IN GIBSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Mark A. Greene
Trenton, Tennessee

On 9 November 2022 at approximately 10:30 am, I was birding on Lemond Road southwest of Trenton in Gibson County. There were numerous Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and Northern Harriers (*Circus hudsonius*) in the area around recently harvested soybean fields. Near the west end of this dead end road I encountered an adult dark intermediate morph Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis harlani*) that I had seen previously in this area. I stopped to take some photos of this hawk, and while photographing it another light colored Buteo flew up and joined it. On first glance I presumed this bird to be a Krider's Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis krideri*). After looking at the bird through my binoculars and on my camera I realized that the bird had no patagial marks and was actually a juvenile Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*). In flight the bird was mostly white underneath with some sparse brown spotting on the legs and belly and some brown mottling on the underwings. Above, the bird was uniformly brown with bold white primary panels and a tail that was white at the base and dark brown near the tip (Figures 1 and 2). I contacted several other birders and posted the sighting to social media platforms to let others know about the bird. Several others saw the bird later that afternoon. The bird spent the majority of its time soaring, hovering, and flying around over an uncut soybean field, leaving the immediate area once, only to return a few minutes later. Several Red-tailed Hawks continued

Figure 1. A juvenile Ferruginous Hawk was discovered and photographed in Gibson County in November 2022 and remained through January 2023. Photo by Mark Greene.

in the area as well and hunted the same field. The Ferruginous Hawk was harassed several times in flight by a Northern Harrier. Around 4:00 pm we saw the bird dive on a Red-tailed Hawk on the ground in a nearby grassy area and pirate a meal from the smaller Buteo after chasing it away. It also spent several minutes sitting on the roof of a nearby agricultural equipment storage facility.

The next morning on 10 November, at about 6:30 am, I went back to the area and immediately found the bird perched on a dead tree snag. I again notified others and updated social media platforms regarding the continued presence of the bird. While waiting for others to arrive, I watched the bird fly out into the harvested area of a soybean field to capture and consume a Hispid Cotton Rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*). After consuming the rodent the bird flew to the top of an electric utility pole and sat for the next hour or so. Several others arrived to view the bird; the bird was last seen at around 12:00 noon, though several birders searched until dusk, but the bird was not seen again that day. I continued to search the area for the next few days with no success.

On the afternoon of 15 November I was photographing an adult Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) sitting in a large agricultural stubble field on the west side of U.S. Highway 45 West, just north of the junction with Old Dyersburg Road, when I noticed a pale breasted Buteo sitting on the ground in a grassy area of the field. I viewed the bird in my binoculars and quickly realized that this was the same juvenile Ferruginous Hawk that I had observed the previous week. This new location was approximately five miles north of the first location and is north of Trenton in Gibson County.

Over the next several weeks the bird was viewed by dozens of observers from Tennessee

Figure 2. The juvenile Ferruginous Hawk in Gibson County photographed in flight. Photo by Mark Greene.

and surrounding states. During most of its stay at this location the bird would sit on the ground in the large stubble field, make short foray flights, and land back on the ground. On many occasions it was seen consuming rodents that it captured on the ground. The bird also used a center pivot agricultural irrigation rig as a perch. It often shared the rig with Red-tailed Hawks that also used it as a perch.

On the afternoon of 14 January 2023 I decided to watch the bird until dark to see where it roosted for the night. I arrived at the location at about 4:30 pm and located the bird sitting on the ground in the field. It made several short foray flights over the field. Through my spotting scope I watched the bird capture and consume several rat-sized rodents which I assumed to be Hispid Cotton Rats. At 5:31 pm I watched the bird take off and fly to the east side of U.S. Highway 45 West into a grove of large Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*). This was the only time during its stay that I saw the bird perch in a living tree. I had seen it once at the first location use a dead tree snag as a perch.

The last day that I saw the bird was 30 January 2023. The next day the area had a significant winter weather event with periods of freezing rain and sleet. The bird was not seen after that.

This is the 6th Tennessee record for this western Buteo species and the first record for Gibson County. All previous records have been in Northwest Tennessee.

REPORT OF THE TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE, 2023

Graham Gerdeman
Nashville, Tennessee

It is the job of the Tennessee Bird Records Committee (TBRC) to maintain the Official List of the Birds of Tennessee and to ensure that sightings of rare species are documented accurately and adequately for posterity. This list, along with the by-laws of the committee and information for submitting documentation, may be viewed in the TBRC section of the TOS website (https://tnbirds.org/tennessee-bird-records-committee/). The TBRC also maintains status codes for abundance and frequency of each species on the Official List. Committee review is requested for all species which are coded as anything other than "Regular" or "Casual." Vagrant subspecies representing possible future splits also require review.

Current members of the committee are Graham Gerdeman (Secretary), Chris Sloan, Beth Schilling, Mark Greene, Michael Smith, Jeff Walck, and Stefan Woltmann (alternate). We wish to thank all who have taken the time to document and submit rare bird records. Many of these reports are accompanied by photographic documentation, which is especially valuable to the work of the committee. If a recently submitted record is not included in this list, it is probably still under review. If an older submitted record is not included, please send an email to tbrc@tnbirds.org. Please note, a species is considered provisional if it is not verified by an extant specimen, extant photograph or sound recording, or the written documentation of three independent observers of a species or of the same individual bird.

Eastern Willet (*Tringa semipalmata semipalmata*) - Written documentation and photographs of one individual submitted by Graham Gerdeman; Davidson County, 5 May 2023, among Western Willets (*Tringa semipalmata inornata*). This is a first state record of the "Eastern" subspecies of Willet and is a potential future split. Accepted 6-0.

Long-Billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) - Written documentation and photograph of one individual submitted by Mark Greene; Lake County, 5 September 2023. A sixth state record. Accepted 6-0.

Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendii*) - Written documentation and photograph of one individual submitted by Bruce Dralle; Point Park on Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, Hamilton County, 12-14 October 2023. A fifth state record and the first to be photo documented, seen by many state birders. Accepted 6-0.

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) - Written documentation and photographs of one individual submitted by Tim L. Russell; Chickamauga Dam, Chattanooga, Hamilton County, 24 November 2023. An impressive first state record which continued until last documented 3 December. Accepted 6-0.

Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*) - Written documentation and photographs of one individual submitted by Jeremy Dotson; Knox County, 7 December 2023. The record was rejected 6-0 due to field marks and photographs which were insufficient to rule out the extremely similar Common Gull (*Larus canus*), or possibly an aberrant Ring-billed Gull. The bird in question was believed to be the same individual re-

ported in eBird and social media forums the day before on 6 December. That observation has not been formally submitted to the committee for review, though photographs in eBird appear consistent with a "Mew type" Short-billed or Common Gull. Separating these two recently split species is virtually impossible without seeing the open wing.

Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) - Written documentation and photographs of one individual found during the Reelfoot CBC by Alan Troyer (submitted by Mark Greene); Reelfoot Lake State Park, Keystone Trail, Lake County, 16 December 2023. A second state record which was seen and photographed by several others the following three days, last reported 19 December. (The committee did not believe evidence was sufficient to identify the bird to subspecies). Accepted 6-0.

MINUTES OF THE FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Chattanooga, Tennessee
14 October 2023

The Fall meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee and hosted by the Chattanooga Chapter. The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Vice President Dick Preston at 1:15 pm. The meeting was held at the Baylor School Chapel. Secretary Cyndi Routledge determined there was quorum. A motion was made by Steve Routledge to approve the Spring 2023 Board of Directors Minutes and General Meeting Minutes as written. Seconded by Chris Welsh. Approved unanimously.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Treasurer – Pam Lasley – TOS remains in excellent financial shape. Our Membership dollars and dividends on investments are running roughly the same as last year. We awarded $2735 in grants, had a larger than normal run of Discover Birds Activity books, and have produced 3 editions of *The Migrant*. We no longer have the cost of printing and mailing *The Tennessee Warbler*, ($3500 annually), but we are now paying $29 a month for MailChimp for distribution of our newsletter electronically. The new stipend for TOS meetings enabled Nashville to invite a world-class speaker for the Spring Meeting.

Our investments have regained roughly half of what we lost last year in Market Value although the third quarter was a bit disappointing. Full financial results will be presented at the Spring 2024 meeting in Knoxville. TOS would also like to extend a personal thank-you to the families of John Richard Hay III and Robert Maynard for bequests to TOS in their respective wills. TOS received $6000 in total from these families.

The Migrant – editor Bob Ford, reported by Associate Editor Susan McWhirter – The next issue will see the return of the Season reports under new Season editor Graham Gerdeman.

Back issues of *The Migrant* are archived on the Searchable Ornithological Research Archives (SORA) network.

Webmaster – Amy Wilms, reported by Cyndi Routledge – Pre-existing chapter sites have been moved to one server, with more chapters to be added, and domain names consolidated to one company. Directions to add to the community calendar are complete. A menu will be added to the TOS page to link all chapters.

NEW BUSINESS

Cyndi Routledge proposed we increase Webmaster Amy Wilm's compensation because of the amount of additional work of Chapter consolidation. Melinda Welton made a motion that we increase Webmaster Amy Wilm's annual contract to $2400 a year. Steve Routledge seconded. A discussion took place, and the vote then passed unanimously. Ken Oeser made a motion to pay Amy Wilms a $500 bonus for the additional work she completed this calendar year that was outside of our contractual agreement with her. Melinda Welton seconded. A discussion took place, and the motion passed by majority vote.

No other questions or announcements were put forward, so Pam Lasley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chris Welsh. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndi Routledge, Secretary

2023 TENNESSEE FALL BIRD COUNTS

Ron Hoff
Loudon, Tennessee

There were six Fall Bird Counts conducted this year. One hundred seventy-seven observers tallied 184 species across the state. The weather was mild during the count period with some early fog on a few counts and heavy rain periods in Montgomery County. Temperatures ranged from 54° F in Elizabethton to 84° F in Nashville.

A Limpkin in Blount County and Say's Phoebe in Knox County were new species, bringing the species total for the Tennessee Fall Bird Count compilation to 262. Additional count highlights included Ruffed Grouse, Anhinga, American Bittern, Purple Gallinule, Red-necked Phalarope, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Olive-sided and Scissor-tailed flycatchers, Bell's Vireo, Henslow's Sparrow, and Pine Siskin.

Counts are placed in the table geographically from West to East. Taxonomy follows the latest revision of the AOS Checklist of North American Birds.

COUNT SUMMARIES

(F/Y = feeder/yard watcher)

Blount County (BLNT) – 16 September; 0532-2000. Weather: foggy/partly cloudy/light rain; wind 0-5 mph; 61-79° F. Count highlights included Common Merganser, Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night-Herons, Limpkin, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Orange-crowned Warbler. Observers: Jean J. Alexander, Kathryn Barrow, Rick Barrow, Christie Bass, Warren Bielenberg, Andy Feldt, Marian D. Fitzgerald, Paul Hartigan, Kim Henry, Stephen P. Henry, Thomas D. Howe (compiler), Susan Hoyle, James R. Human, David M. Johnson, Kris Johnson, Evan Kidd, Jason Kyhm, Martha Rudolph, Harumi Tsuruoka, June D. Welch, Valerie Wininger, and Randy C. Winstead.

Elizabethton (ELIZ) – 30 September; 0445-1930. Weather: clear/partly cloudy; wind light and variable; 54-82° F. Highlights included Black-billed Cuckoo, Virginia Rail, Purple Gallinule, Barn and Northern Saw-whet owls, Merlin, and Pine Siskin. Observers: Fred Alsop, Jerry Bevins, Rob Biller, Tammie Bright, Debi Campbell, J. G. Campbell, Ron Carrico, Bill Cauley, Linda Cauley, Catherine Cummins, Dave Gardner, Connie Irick, David Irick, Jackie Knight, Rick Knight (compiler), Roy Knispel, Vern Maddux, Joe McGuiness, Tom McNeil, Alson Ovando, Susan Peters, Brookie Potter, Jean Potter, Lia Pritchard, Pete Range, Judith Reid, Judi Sawyer, Bryan Stevens, Kim Stroud, and Charles Warden.

Knoxville (KNOX) – 24 September; 0626-2000. Weather: clear; wind variable 0-10 mph; 56-82° F. Say's Phoebe was a new county record. Other highlights included Common Merganser, Sora, Sedge and Marsh wrens, Canada Warbler, Bobolink, and Baltimore Oriole. Observers: Amy Abercrombie, Robert Abercrombie, Zack Arnold, Kathryn Barrow, Rick Barrow, Karen Beuerlein, Frank Bills, Deede Blane, Eric Bodker, Doug Bruce, Robert Champlin, Joy Chao, Howard Cox, James Davis, Tara Davis, Kerri Dikun, Jeremy Dotson, K. Dean Edwards (compiler), Chuck Estes, Melinda Fawver, Dottie Habel, Patricia Harmon, Dallas Harrell, Paul Hartigan, AC Hassall, Ron Hoff, Kathleen Horn, Roger Horn, Susan Hoyle, Yetta Jager, Kristine Johnson, Evan Kidd, Toby Koosman, Pamela Lasley, Steven Lasley, Morton Massey, Stephany McNew, Janet Meier, Dollyann Myers, John O'Barr, Pat Phillips, Patrick Rakes, W. Kelly Roy, Martha Rudolph, Sheila Rygwel-

ski, Michael Ryon, Ryder Santori, Beth Schilling, Jarrett Simoneaux, Harumi Umi, Mike Winck, Valerie Wininger and Heather Wilson..

Montgomery (MONT) – 16 September; 0530-1830. Weather: cloudy with heavy rain periods in the morning/intermittent rain; 61-67° F. Merlin, Bell's Vireo, Henslow's Sparrow and 21 Bobolinks were count highlights. Observers: Elaine Foust, Daniel Moss, Rick Shipkowski (compiler), and Sue Shipkowski.

Nashville (NASH) - 30 September; no times given. Weather: fog early/clear; 65-84° F. Many highlights included American Bittern, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Barn Owl, Merlin, Yellow-bellied and Scissor-tailed flycatchers, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Sedge and Marsh wrens, Golden-winged and Orange-crowned Warblers, and Baltimore Oriole. Observers: Rachel Anderson, Sandy Bivens, Susan Bradfield, Trae Bradfield, Lise Brown, Jean Buchanan, Deana McKnett Burke, Andrew Cameron, Suzanne Cameron, Phillip Casteel, Richard Connors, Laura Cook, Tim Cook, Cassy Dorff, Brad Dowd, Ariel Dunham, Paul Edelman, Frank Fekel, Avery Fish, Graham Gerdeman, Steve Goodbred, Mark Hackney, Joe Hall, Barbara Harris (compiler), John Kell, Tim Loyd, Judy Luna, Amy Pardo, Benjamin Pardo, Hannah Pardo, Steve Pardo, Serena Pedane, Jordan Rex, Jessica Robb, Sarah Scott, Kathy Shaw, Shelia Shay, Suanna Sherry, Chris Sloan, Kathy Smith, Laura Smith, Anne Snyder, Marcus Snyder, Lisa Stevenson, Ruben Stoll, Kren Teren, Linnann Welch, Melinda Welton, and Grant Winter.

Shelby County (SHLB) – 9 September; 0630-1915. Weather: partly cloudy/clear; wind NW 4-10 mph; 68-80° F. Numerous highlights included Semipalmated Plover, Western Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Anhinga, Barn Owl, Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, and Wilson's Warbler. Observers: Judith Barrie, Chad Brown, Emily Conant, Sophia Dismukes, Greg Elliot, Gabriel Garneau, Margaret Jefferson, Sarita Joshi, Wayne Kirk, Nadine Larimer, Douglas Logan, Dick Preston (compiler), Ryan Pudwell, Jewel Simpson, Norman Soskel, Cathy Souther, Ed Thomas, Cliff VanNostrand, Jim Varner, and Tricia Vesely.

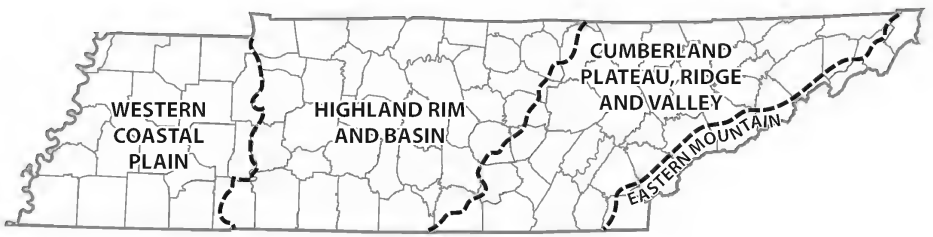
2023 Fall Bird Counts Count date	SHLB 9-Sep	MONT 16-Sep	NASH 30-Sep	BLNT 16-Sep	KNOX 24-Sep	ELIZ 30-Sep	Totals
SPECIES							
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Canada Goose	86	5	188	328	158	850	1615
Wood Duck	2	4	58	33	22	40	159
Blue-winged Teal	67	-	2	8	1	-	78
Northern Shoveler	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Mallard	69	17	131	31	84	179	511
Green-winged Teal	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hooded Merganser	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Common Merganser	-	-	-	5	1	6	12
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	1	-	-	3	4
Wild Turkey	-	12	58	27	10	37	144
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	7	-	-	4	11
Rock Pigeon	114	164	53	84	82	362	859
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	2	-	1	3
Mourning Dove	121	7	78	241	174	172	793
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	-	2	-	1	5	9
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Common Nighthawk	-	1	7	4	-	2	14
Chimney Swift	868	2	134	88	207	246	1545
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	39	23	27	35	32	17	173
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sora	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
American Coot	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
Purple Gallinule	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Limpkin	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Killdeer	88	14	79	18	47	45	291
Semipalmated Plover	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Stilt Sandpiper	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Least Sandpiper	600	-	-	-	-	-	600
Pectoral Sandpiper	15	-	1	-	-	-	16
Semipalmated Sandpiper	20	-	-	-	-	-	20
Western Sandpiper	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Wilson's Snipe	1	-	-	1	4	1	7
Spotted Sandpiper	2	-	1	-	-	2	5
Solitary Sandpiper	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lesser Yellowlegs	25	-	-	-	-	-	25
Greater Yellowlegs	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Red-necked Phalarope	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	27	1	-	-	28
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Common Loon	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Anhinga	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Double-crested Cormorant	35	-	110	27	26	84	282
American Bittern	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Great Blue Heron	1013	1	31	24	24	34	1127
Great Egret	-	1	11	1	2	3	18
Green Heron	5	1	3	6	3	-	18
Black-crowned Night-Heron	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Black Vulture	27	118	213	36	46	29	469

2023 Fall Bird Counts Count date	SHLB 9-Sep	MONT 16-Sep	NASH 30-Sep	BLNT 16-Sep	KNOX 24-Sep	ELIZ 30-Sep	Totals
SPECIES							
Turkey Vulture	16	12	40	26	25	141	260
Osprey	1	-	1	3	5	7	17
Northern Harrier	-	-	1	1	-	1	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	1	-	1	1	5	8
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	5	6	7	4	24
Accipiter sp.	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Bald Eagle	1	-	6	-	1	7	15
Red-shouldered Hawk	13	5	7	15	16	6	62
Broad-winged Hawk	-	-	2	1	-	1	4
Red-tailed Hawk	9	4	17	4	8	19	61
Barn Owl	1	-	1	-	-	2	4
Eastern Screech Owl	-	-	8	5	1	17	31
Great Horned Owl	2	3	5	8	-	4	22
Barred Owl	1	4	5	2	5	4	21
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Belted Kingfisher	4	3	18	15	21	26	87
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	4	7	6	-	3	24
Red-bellied Woodpecker	38	5	118	46	98	69	374
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	1	7	8
Downy Woodpecker	23	8	96	32	56	39	254
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	8	4	11	12	37
Northern Flicker	2	4	30	14	25	54	129
Pileated Woodpecker	8	3	32	20	12	30	105
American Kestrel	4	6	12	1	3	16	42
Merlin	-	1	2	-	-	1	4
Peregrine Falcon	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	1	-	5	1	1	10
Eastern Kingbird	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	14	9	51	22	39	18	153
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Acadian Flycatcher	15	-	2	-	3	-	20
Alder Flycatcher	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Least Flycatcher	1	-	1	1	-	-	3
Empidonax sp.	-	1	-	-	1	1	3
Eastern Phoebe	10	3	26	31	47	97	214
Say's Phoebe	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
White-eyed Vireo	57	12	36	33	30	-	168
Bell's Vireo	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Yellow-throated Vireo	8	2	8	2	6	2	28
Blue-headed Vireo	-	-	-	1	-	31	32
Philadelphia Vireo	2	-	6	-	8	-	16
Warbling Vireo	1	2	2	-	-	-	5
Red-eyed Vireo	27	1	5	6	10	5	54
Blue Jay	46	8	272	141	284	438	1189
American Crow	28	47	129	199	147	505	1055
Fish Crow	2	-	-	11	4	7	24
Common Raven	-	-	-	-	-	20	20
Carolina Chickadee	38	14	237	117	180	195	781
Tufted Titmouse	42	8	173	78	114	168	583

2023 Fall Bird Counts Count date	SHLB 9-Sep	MONT 16-Sep	NASH 30-Sep	BLNT 16-Sep	KNOX 24-Sep	ELIZ 30-Sep	Totals
SPECIES							
Horned Lark	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bank Swallow	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Tree Swallow	1	-	3	-	11	220	235
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	48	-	30	-	29	-	107
Barn Swallow	7	7	18	7	1	1	41
Cliff Swallow	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	2	4	6
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Cedar Waxwing	-	17	148	-	41	106	312
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	1	-	-	17	18
White-breasted Nuthatch	13	5	72	36	35	64	225
Brown-headed Nuthatch	-	-	-	6	8	-	14
Brown Creeper	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	14	1	6	3	-	1	25
Carolina Wren	29	18	233	135	196	177	788
House Wren	-	2	15	3	11	3	34
Sedge Wren	-	-	4	-	1	-	5
Marsh Wren	-	-	5	-	2	-	7
Gray Catbird	2	1	78	32	41	38	192
Brown Thrasher	10	4	43	21	46	9	133
Northern Mockingbird	24	4	114	51	137	80	410
European Starling	2350	410	782	429	476	615	5062
Eastern Bluebird	8	15	184	112	76	152	547
Veery	1	-	2	-	2	1	6
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	-	5	-	7	6	18
Swainson's Thrush	-	-	20	10	27	43	100
Wood Thrush	5	-	2	1	8	5	21
American Robin	35	-	152	99	75	113	474
House Sparrow	31	1	6	4	24	37	103
House Finch	13	6	98	110	79	42	348
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
American Goldfinch	18	29	115	81	85	123	451
Chipping Sparrow	9	4	1	16	-	95	125
Field Sparrow	9	1	90	4	21	11	136
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	-	-	-	83	83
Henslow's Sparrow	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	1	-	2	3	6
Song Sparrow	-	-	4	23	55	84	166
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Eastern Towhee	-6	7	62	12	48	62	185
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	-	1	1	1	-	5
Bobolink	-	21	-	-	1	-	22
Eastern Meadowlark	9	-	33	-	7	17	66
Baltimore Oriole	2	-	1	-	3	-	6
Red-winged Blackbird	100	16	43	3	26	10	198
Brown-headed Cowbird	90	-	5	15	15	2	127
Common Grackle	340	75	45	1	-	10	471
Blackbird sp.	3500	-	-	-	-	-	3500
Ovenbird	-	1	4	-	2	6	13
Worm-eating Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Northern Waterthrush	-	-	2	6	1	3	12

2023 Fall Bird Counts Count date	SHLB 9-Sep	MONT 16-Sep	NASH 30-Sep	BLNT 16-Sep	KNOX 24-Sep	ELIZ 30-Sep	Totals
SPECIES							
Golden-winged Warbler	2	-	1	-	2	-	5
Blue-winged Warbler	1	-	-	-	3	-	4
Black-and-white Warbler	10	-	11	2	12	2	37
Prothonotary Warbler	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Tennessee Warbler	5	-	144	7	106	73	335
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Nashville Warbler	-	-	7	-	-	-	7
Common Yellowthroat	3	5	42	17	17	12	96
Hooded Warbler	4	-	1	8	15	13	41
American Redstart	6	2	52	11	29	10	110
Cape May Warbler	-	-	4	1	21	23	49
Northern Parula	46	4	8	-	0	11	69
Magnolia Warbler	18	3	163	10	63	20	277
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	-	20	1	15	28	65
Blackburnian Warbler	-	-	7	1	8	5	21
Yellow Warbler	2	1	3	-	-	-	6
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	-	3	3	13	6	28
Blackpoll Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	21	21
Palm Warbler	-	1	8	16	6	21	52
Pine Warbler	2	1	3	12	8	14	40
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	-	3	6	9
Yellow-throated Warbler	3	1	3	1	5	-	13
Prairie Warbler	-	1	2	-	2	-	5
Black-throated Green Warbler	3	1	19	3	4	15	45
Canada Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Wilson's Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Warbler sp.	-	-	-	6	2	-	8
Summer Tanager	28	7	22	1	12	-	70
Scarlet Tanager	1	1	2	7	12	9	32
Northern Cardinal	86	11	304	158	231	169	959
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	33	1	5	26	65
Blue Grosbeak	2	3	1	3	14	3	26
Indigo Bunting	36	11	112	8	30	12	209
Dickcissel	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Total individuals	1379	235	751	887	774	1928	5954
Total species	115	80	129	103	115	121	184
Observers	20	3	49	22	53	30	177
Parties	10	3	10	15	25	10 to 12	65
Party hours	22.5	5.75	69.93	68.87	69.29	86	322.34
Hours by car	10	1.5	13.25	12.65	3.5	-	40.9
Hours by foot	12.5	4.25	56.68	56.22	65.79	-	195.44
Hours by boat or other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miles by car	17	40.5	61	139.63	52.2	-	310.33
Miles by foot	9.5	1.5	56.6	36.15	60.92	-	164.67
Miles by canoe or other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hours owling	1.5	1.25	0.65	3.8	0.23	6	13.43
Miles owling	1	0.2	0.5	0.4	-	-	2.1
Feeder/yard observers	-	2	-	8	-	-	10
Feeder/yard hours	-	1.5	-	8	3.6	-	13.1

THE FALL SEASON



Graham Gerdeman, Editor

1 August – 31 October 2023

The fall season began with average temperatures in August and ended up 2 – 4 degrees Fahrenheit above average in October. It was not all a slow rise; the month of August exhibited dramatic temperature swings and saw 12 broken and 10 tied daily high temperature records. The temperature station at Mt. LeConte recorded a tied all-time high temperature of 82˚F on 7 August. That record was previously set on 1 July 2012 [1]. A relatively cool early summer with heavy rains in July resulted in a bumper crop of berries of many trees and vines.

Perhaps understandably, precipitation events in August were equally volatile. Extreme rain in the first week of the month (and the season) brought flash flooding and 6 to 10 inches of rainfall to parts of Obion, Weakley, and Gibson counties in northwest Tennessee. Throughout the state there were 164 reports of severe storm wind damage in August. Despite generally above- average rainfall that month, September and October saw rapid drying and a serious "flash drought." By the end of October, 92% of Tennessee was in some degree of drought conditions, with 40% of the state in "Extreme Drought" [1].

The season had a number of rarities such as the second state record of American Flamingo, Long-billed Curlew, and a greater number of Limpkins than ever reported in an inland state.

Sightings are extracted from eBird [2], submissions from regional compilers, the tn-birds listserv, and when necessary, verified social media posts. Comments on historical records rely on *Birds of Tennessee - A New Annotated Checklist* [3], archives of the tn-birds listserv as well as subsequent eBird records and submissions to the Tennessee Bird Records Committee (TBRC).

Regional Editors:
Western Coastal Plain – Dick D. Preston, Munford, Tennessee
Highland Rim and Basin – Graham Gerdeman, Nashville, Tennessee
Cumberland Plateau/Ridge and Valley – Bruce Dralle, Chattanooga, Tennessee
Eastern Mountain - Vacant

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

ad - adult	max - maximum count
au - audio recorded	m.ob. - many observers
ba banded	Mtn - Mountain
Co - County	NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
ers - earliest reported sighting	ph - photographed
et al. - and others	SNA - State Natural Area
fide - reported by	SP - State Park
im - immature	WMA - Wildlife Management Area
lrs - latest reported sighting	yg - young

Locations: SBP - "Snow Bunting Peninsula" on Old Hickory Lake, Davidson Co; DRU - Duck River Unit of TN NWR, Humphreys Co; Ensley - Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex and TVA Lake, southwest Shelby Co; Lock 3 - Old Hickory Lake, Sumner Co; LBL - Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area; GSMNP – Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Fulvous Whistling Duck: Lake Co (2) Champey Pocket, Reelfoot Lake, 20 Sept (ph, MAG).

Snow Goose: Davidson Co (1) Centennial Park, Nashville, 30 Aug (ph, PS, GG, m.ob.) ers, with a migrating flock of Canada Geese.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Shelby Co (50) flock flying over Meeman-Shelby Forest SP, 5 Oct (Jeffrey Hill) ers; Lake Co (48) Reelfoot Lake, 6 Oct (RS); (140) Tiptonville (RS) also notable early dates. Humphreys Co (1,550) DRU, 21 Oct, max (ph, RS, DR) and Lincoln Co (1400) flying over the Fowler Road Irrigation Pond (ph, AF).

Cackling Goose: Humphreys Co (14) DRU, 20 Sept (ph, RS) earliest fall record by at least two weeks.

Tundra Swan: Sullivan Co (8) South Holston River Weir, 10 Oct (RRK, m.ob.) notable early date.

Blue-winged Teal: Shelby Co (3) flyover, Shelby Farms Park, 2 Aug (SD) ers; Putnam Co (900), Cane Creek Park, 6 Oct, max (ph, MR) highest in eBird for the county; Williamson Co (800) Franklin Reservoir, 6 Oct (JA) high count for the county.

Gadwall: Humphreys Co (2) DRU, continuing from summer, last reported 4 Aug (DR).

American Wigeon: Humphreys Co (1) DRU, continuing from summer, last reported 19 Aug (DR).

There were good numbers of all three scoter species this fall.

Surf Scoter: Williamson Co (2) Franklin Reservoir, one bird found 21 Oct (ph, RMG, WL, m.ob.) Montgomery Co (1) Liberty Park, Clarksville (SY, ph, SW, m.ob.); Sullivan Co (1) Fort Patrick Henry Lake, 31 Oct (ph, SQ, BF); Hamilton Co (1) Chester Frost Park, 31 Oct (ph, TL, SWh, KWh).

White-winged Scoter: Blount Co (1) Fort Loudon Lake, 31 Oct (RDH, DMy, m.ob.); Sullivan Co (1) Fort Patrick Henry Lake, 31 Oct (BFi, SQ), (1) South Holston Lake (RRK, m.ob)

Black Scoter: Carter Co (2) Watauga River, 31 Oct (BPo, JPo); Sullivan Co (3) South Holston Lake (BPo, JPo, ph, BFi, SQ).

Common Merganser: Bedford Co (12) adult pair and 10 juveniles, Bedford Lake, 31 Oct (TLR) was the only report outside expected breeding areas in east TN.

American Flamingo: Wayne Co (5) near Collinwood, adult pair with three juveniles, 2 Sept (MW, DS, m.ob.). All but one of the juveniles were gone the following day, but the remaining bird was reported almost daily until 15 Sept. An amazing second state record and part of a historic incursion of flamingos into the eastern US following Hurricane Idalia's landfall on the gulf coast.

Pied-billed Grebe: Sullivan Co (180) a notable fallout, 7 Oct, max (RLK, *fide* GG).

Horned Grebe: Sullivan Co (1) in breeding plumage, South Holston Lake, 1–6 Aug (MSa) likely a summering bird.

White-winged Dove: Marshall Co (1) known feeder location, sporadically 1–19 Aug (KS); Davidson Co (1) reported singing at Grassroots Sod Farm, 23 Aug (GG); Shelby Co (7) high fall count, max, 21 Aug (CRu).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Few scattered reports, none in west TN. Rutherford Co (1) Stones River Battlefield, 1 Sept (ph, AF, m.ob.); Putnam Co (1) 1 Sept (ph, HT, MT); Lincoln Co (2) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond (RS); Union Co (1) 16–17 Sept (ph, DT); Carter Co (1) 28 Aug (BPo, JPo).

Common Nighthawk: Blount Co (730) Townsend Visitor Center, 29 Aug, max (KBa).

Chimney Swift: Davidson Co (2000) Aircraft Observation Area, Nashville airport, max, 23 Aug (NS); Hamilton Co (2000) The Teacher's Place, Chattanooga, max (SK, BJ).

Rufous Hummingbird: Maury Co (1) adult male at feeder, 13 Sept (ph, KW); Monroe Co (1) adult female (ba, CR *fide* GG).

Allen's Hummingbird: Knox Co (1) Farragut, 29 Nov, hatch year male (ba, MA *fide* GG).

Virginia Rail: Humphreys Co (2) were reported throughout Oct, DRU and Blount Co, Kyker Bottoms; Lincoln Co (1) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond, 18 Oct (m.ob.); Carroll Co (1) Carroll Marsh, 6 Oct (RS); Hamilton Co (1) Standifer Gap Marsh, 28 Aug (WJ).

Sora: Humphreys Co (16) DRU, flushed while bush hogging, 12 Oct, max (CF); numerous other reports throughout the state.

Common Gallinule: Shelby Co (1) juvenile bird, Riverport Road Sloughs, 13 Aug (ph, PJP, m.ob.) last reported 20 Aug (ph, CRu); Hamilton Co (1) juvenile, Standifer Gap Marsh, 13 Oct (ph, TL).

Purple Gallinule: Roane Co (1) juvenile, Emory Bend Wetland, 16 Sept (ph, RK, m.ob.) last reported 27 Sept (ph, RW); Washington Co (1) juvenile, Chuckey, 8 Sept – 2 Oct (WM, ph, m.ob.).

Yellow Rail: Humphreys Co, two reports of single birds, DRU, flushed by bush hogging, 12 Oct (CF), and (1) exceptional report of a heard bird giving a vocalization only recently

described in the literature in wintering birds, 8 Oct (DR, RS); Rutherford Co (1) flushed at the J. Percy Priest Lake Field Trials area, 4 Oct (AF).

Limpkin: The invasion of Limpkins continued with reports from **24 COUNTIES** this season, divided here by Grand Division.

West TN: Hardeman Co (1) Lone Oaks Farm, 9 Aug (BSt); Obion Co (1 – 3) Reelfoot Lake NWR, Grassy Island Unit, also 7 Aug / 11 – 22 Sept (ph, MAG, m.ob.); Lake Co (2) Black Bayou Refuge, 11 – 24 Aug (ph, MAG, m.ob.); Shelby Co (1) Dogwood Creek Apartments pond, 1 Aug – 29 Sept (ph, m.ob.); Dyer Co (2) White Lake Refuge, 5 Sept (ph, MAG); Haywood Co (1 – 2) Hatchie NWR, 24/29 Sept (ph, AJT, m.ob.); Fayette Co (1) Ghost River SNA, 14 Oct (ph, AJT, m.ob); Benton Co (1) Harmon Creek WMA, 10 Sept (WP), (2) Lick Creek WMA, 23 Sept (ph, RS, BB).

Middle TN: Davidson Co (1) Centennial Park, 28 Aug (ph, GG, m.ob), (1) Radnor Lake, 6 Oct (ph, MB, m.ob.); Humphreys Co (4) DRU, 29 Aug (ph, CF), reports of 1 – 15 birds continued throughout the season. Rutherford Co (1) Murfree Springs Wetlands, 9 Aug – 19 Sept (ph, m.ob.); Stewart Co (1) Barkley WMA, 22 – 27 Aug (ph, SA, JHa). Perry Co (2) Linden, 16 Sept (ph, ME); Warren Co (1) Pepper Branch Park, 16 Sept / 3-4 Oct (ph, BM, SNM, m.ob.); Montgomery Co (1) Liberty Park, 29 Oct (ph, SWo, m.ob.).

East TN: Blount Co (1) continuing from July, Maryville, Alcoa Greenway 4–18 Aug (ph, m.ob.) and again 27 Oct (ph, EK), possibly a second individual; Hamilton Co (1) Standifer Gap Marsh, 26 Aug (SWh, KWh); Knox Co (1) reported randomly walking through suburban backyards, 11 – 12 Sept (ph, KWa, m.ob.). Monroe Co (1) Tellico Lake WMA, 22 Oct (CB); Meigs Co (1) Chickamauga Lake, Bear Branch Access, 8 / 21 (ph, TSh, m.ob.).

American Avocet: Hamilton Co (4) Chester Frost Park, 7 Aug (KC, ph, SWh, KWh); Hardeman Co (1) UT Institute of Agriculture, 6 Aug (BSt); Humphreys Co (4) Tie Landing, 8 Aug (RS); Lake Co (2) Tiptonville Landing, 9 Aug (MAG); Lincoln Co (4) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond, 25 Aug (ph, AF); Franklin Co (1) Woods Reservoir, 16 Sept (RC); Shelby Co had several sightings: (6) Mud Island, 12 Aug, max (ph, RS), (1) Ensley, 9 Aug (ph, CRu), (2) Maynard C. Stiles Water Treatment Plant, 7 Oct (ph, PJP), and as many as (2) long-staying birds, Shelby Farms Park, 20 Sept (m.ob.).

Black-bellied Plover: Cocke Co (17) Rankin Bottoms, 18 Sept, max (RDH, DM); Humphreys Co (15) DRU, 17 Oct (ph, RS).

American Golden Plover: Humphreys Co (17) upper mudflats, mouth of the Duck River, 14 Sept, max (RS); Perry Co (17) Toms Creek Mudflats, 17 Sept, max (ph, RS).

Semipalmated Plover: Humphreys Co (92) Tie Landing, 7 Sept, max (RS).

Upland Sandpiper: Davidson Co (1) Grassroots Sod Farm, 18 Aug (ph, FF, m.ob.); Fayette Co (2) Winstead Turf Farm (ph, RS, DR); Humphreys Co (1) DRU, 4 Aug (DR), and (1) DRU, 7 Sept (RS); Shelby Co (1) Shelby Farms Park, 20 Sept (au, SD); Tipton Co (1) Randall Landing, 9 Sept (DR).

Whimbrel: Humphreys Co (1) DRU, 31 Aug (RS, VS).

Long-Billed Curlew: Lake Co (1) fly-by of a calling bird, Tiptonville Landing, 5 Sept (ph, MAG), Sixth confirmed state record.

Hudsonian Godwit: Hamilton Co (1) Chester Frost Park, 11–13 Oct (ph, TL, SWh, KWh, m.ob.) first county record since 1995.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Only 3 reports. Davidson Co (1) Grassroots Sod Farm, 16–17 Aug (ph, GG, FF); Humphreys Co (7) DRU, 7 Sept (RS); Lincoln Co (10) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond, 28 Oct, max (AF) very late date.

Wilson's Phalarope: Humphreys Co (2) DRU, 31 Aug–9 Sept (RS, VS, m.ob.); Hamilton Co (1) W.R. Grace Ponds, 10–13 Sept (KC, m.ob.).

Red Phalarope: Coffee Co (1) Woods Reservoir, Clark Hill Boat Ramp, 23–26 Oct (ph, RCa, m.ob.).

Red-necked Phalarope: Shelby Co (1) Ensley, 29 Aug–9 Sept (ph, CRu, m.ob.).

Spotted Sandpiper: Tipton Co (22) Randolph Landing, 2 Aug, max (DR) noteworthy high count.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Humphreys Co (145) DRU mudflats, 9 Sept, max (RS, AF, CRu).

Willet: Marion Co (1) Nickajack Dam, 10 Aug (TLR); Shelby Co (2) Mud Island, 12 Aug (ph, RS), and (1) Ensley, 29 Aug–3 Sept (ph, CRu, m.ob.).

Ruddy Turnstone: Lake Co (1) Tiptonville Landing, 4 Aug (MAG); Tipton Co (1) Randolph Landing, 27/30 Aug (ph, CRu, DDP); Blount Co (1) Lowes Ferry Road Stilt Pond, 7–8 Sept (ph, RW, m.ob.); Coffee Co (1) Hillsboro Hwy Pond, 7–8 Sept (SNM, m.ob.).

Sanderling: Humphreys Co (23) DRU mudflats, 9 Sept, max (RS, AF, CRu). Far less common in east TN, (1) Hamilton Co, Chester Frost Park, 18–20 Oct (ph, SWh, KWh, m.ob.) rare county sighting.

White-rumped Sandpiper – rare in the fall; Humphreys Co (1) Duck River mudflats, DRU, 31 Aug–1 Sept (RS); Cocke Co (2) Rankin Bottoms, reported as either one or two birds, 19–24 Sept (ph, MW, CE, m.ob.); Shelby Co (1) Ensley, 7 Sept (ph, CRu) and (1) Shelby Farms Park, 11/13–14 Oct (CVN, ph, SD, m.ob.); White Co (1) Boiling Pond, 10 Sept (DSh, RSh); Lincoln Co (1) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond, 18 Oct (ph, RS).

Least Sandpiper: Shelby Co (2950) Ensley, 7 Sept, max (CRu).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Humphreys Co (128) DRU, 7 Sept, max (RS).

Western Sandpiper: Cocke Co (1) Rankin Bottoms, 21 Sept (ph, RSv), (4) reported the following day, 22 Sept (ph, JCa); Fentress Co (1) Livingston Hwy Pond, Jamestown, 7 Sept (ph, DSh, RSh); Hardin Co (1) Coffee Landing Rd Flats, 4 Sept (ph, AJT); Humphreys Co (8) DRU, 7 Sept (RS).

Little Gull: Benton/Humphreys Cos (1) juvenile bird reported from both Camden WMA and DRU Pump Station, 20 Sept (ph, AM, RS), first county record for both counties.

Sabine's Gull: Cocke Co (1) Rankin Bottoms, 21–22 Sept (ph, MA, m.ob.).

Laughing Gull: Benton Co (2) adult and first fall bird, Nathan Bedford Forrest SP, 8 Sept (ph, RS), and (1) adult 21/23 Sept, Camden WMA (ph, RS, VS); Hardin Co (2) Pickwick Dam, 8 Sept (ph, CRu, RS).

Franklin's Gull: Lake Co (990) Reelfoot Lake SP Visitor Center, 28 Oct, max (DR, RS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Hardin Co (23) Pickwick Dam, 27 Oct, max (RS) high state fall count.

Least Tern: always rare away from the Mississippi River, Humphreys Co (1) juvenile, DRU, 6 Aug (GG, CAS, MS) and (1) juvenile, Tie Landing, 7 Sept (RS); Sumner Co (1) juvenile, Lock 3, Old Hickory Lake, 15 Aug (ph, TLo); Tipton Co (80) Randolph Landing, 27 Aug, max (CRu).

Black Tern: Lake Co (76) Reelfoot Lake SP, White's Landing, 14 Aug, max (DR); Davidson Co (47) Old Hickory Lake, SBP (AF) notable high count for Nashville.

Common Tern: Benton Co (12) Nathan Bedford Forrest SP, 27 Aug, max (RS).

Wood Stork: Lake Co (1) feeding with herons and egrets, Black Bayou Refuge Wheelchair Hunting area, 31 Aug (WGC *fide* MAG).

Anhinga: Humphreys Co (4) DRU, 27 Aug (SKi, RS); Shelby Co (3) Meeman-Shelby Forest SP, 19 Sept (LR); Benton Co (1) Duck River Bottoms Overlook, 2 Sept (DR, RS).

Neotropic Cormorant: Humphreys Co, several reports of (1) DRU throughout the season (m.ob.); Cocke Co (1) adult bird, Rankin Bottoms, 22–23 Sept (ph, CW, m.ob.); Stewart Co (1) Cross Creeks NWR, 21 Aug (ph, DR).

American White Pelican: Obion Co (1425) 26 Oct, max (MAG).

American Bittern: Davidson Co (1) Shelby Bottoms Park, Cornelia Fort Airpark, 24–30 Sept (ph, AR, m.ob.); Warren Co (1) Riverfront Park, 15 Sept (NR); Shelby Co (1) Shelby Farms Park, 1 Oct (CVN, JV); Hamilton Co (1) Standifer Gap Marsh, 11/13/17 Oct (ph, TL, m.ob.)..

Least Bittern: Hamilton Co (2) highest reported at known breeding site, Standifer Gap Marsh, 9 Aug, max (TL) the only reported location of the season.

White Ibis: Numerous reports, all of juvenile birds: Grainger Co (1) Cherokee Dam, 12–14 Aug (ph, DH, JC, m.ob.); Hamilton Co (1) Standifer Gap Marsh, 26/29 Aug / 9 Sept (PH, LT, m.ob.); Humphreys Co (4) was the highest count of multiple reports from DRU or Tie Landing 1–26 Aug/ 7 Sept (ph, RS, WM, m.ob.); Rutherford Co (1) Swamp Road, 10–15 Aug (ph, PS, m.ob.); Shelby Co (1) flyover at Riverport Road Sloughs, 11 Aug (RP), (4) Ensley, 15 Aug (ph, CRu), and (2) Shelby Farms Park, Gardener Road Marsh, 6 Oct (ph, SD); Williamson Co (2) Carters Creek Rd, 1–6 Aug (ph, PS, DR, m.ob.); Cocke Co (2) Rankin Bottoms, 22 Sept (CW); Dyer Co (2) White Lake Refuge, 1 or 2 birds were reported off and on, 5–16 Sept (ph, MAG, m.ob.); Tipton Co (8) Randolph Landing, 9 Sept, max (ph, DR).

Glossy / White-faced Ibis: Several reports of *Plegadis* ibises which could not be identified to species: Coffee Co (1) Hillsboro Hwy Pond (ph, m.ob.); Dyer Co (1) White Lake Refuge, 13–16 Sept (ph, MAG, DR, RS); Humphreys Co (1) DRU, 8 Oct (RS, DR).

Roseate Spoonbill: Humphreys Co (5) continuing from the summer and reported regularly from 1 Aug–1 Oct (ph, m.ob.); Henry Co (1) Big Sandy Flats, 22–23 Sept (ph, JHa, m.ob.).

Swallow-tailed Kite: Multiple sightings across the state of dispersed birds, well outside of

the now regular stronghold in the Sequatchie Valley: In Middle TN, Davidson Co (1) Joelton, 1 Aug (ph, JH *fide* JW) third county record; Decatur Co (6) feeding over a farm for an entire week, 7–14 Aug (ph, BB *fide* MAG, RS, m.ob.) first county record; Humphreys Co (1) DRU, 28/31 Aug (CF, ph, RS, VS) second county record, last reported 9 Sept. The bird was also seen through a spotting scope from Benton Co (1) Duck River Bottoms Overlook, 1 Sept (ph, RS); Hardin Co (1) Coffee Landing Road Flats, 4 Sept (ph, AJT) first county record in eBird; Shelby Co (1) Germantown, 13 Sept (NSo, JBa); Marion Co (10) Sequatchie Valley, max, 12 Aug (ph, TLe, m.ob.); Polk Co (1) Benton, 5 Aug (JTa, NTa) high elevation; Sullivan Co (8) Chinquapin Grove Road, 31 Jul – 27 Aug (DHu *fide* RLK, m.ob.) new county record, (1) Kingsport, 26 Aug / 11 Sept (ph, TB, BFi, SQ *fide* RLK); Knox Co (4) Seven Islands State Birding Park, 21 Sept, lrs (HN, GB).

Mississippi Kite: Decatur Co (42) Decaturville, 13 Aug, max (ph, MJT).

Northern Harrier: Coffee Co (1) Hickerson Rd Sod Farm, 11 Aug, ers (ph, DR).

Broad-winged Hawk: Sevier Co (2321) counted in migration, Pigeon Forge, 19 Sept, max (ACh, GCh).

Swainson's Hawk: Shelby Co (1) Ensley, 12 Aug (DR) and (1) Shelby Farms Park, Gardener Rd Marsh, 24 Aug (RP); Lake Co (1) Proctor City Rd, 28 Oct (ph, DR, RS, MAG).

Burrowing Owl: Humphreys Co (1) banded bird returned to the restricted TVA New Johnsonville plant location for the fourth year, 28 Oct (TRo, LBH *fide* GG).

Long-eared Owl: Montgomery Co (1) Fort Campbell, 26 Oct (DM *fide* GG).

Merlin: Tipton Co (1) Randolph Landing, 2 Sept, ers (MAG, RS, m.ob.). There were reports from 14 counties throughout the season.

Peregrine Falcon: Hamilton Co (1) Chattanooga, 5 Aug (JTi).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Reported in 11 counties. Warren Co (1) Hickory Creek Nature Trail, 24 Sept, lrs (BM).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Henderson Co (1) Natchez Trace SP, 27 Aug, ers (au, CS); Henry Co (1) Paris, 6 Oct, lrs (ph, RWh).

Alder Flycatcher: Davidson Co (1) Bells Bend Park, 30 Sept, (LB) late fall date.

Willow Flycatcher: Rutherford Co (1) Flat Rock Cedar Glades SNA, 15 Sept, lrs (AF).

Least Flycatcher: Shelby Co (1) University of Memphis, Southernwoods, 1 Aug, ers (CRu) notably early; (1) Shelby Farms Park, lrs (ph, TV) and Arlington Wetlands, lrs (ph, JTo), both on 14 Oct.

Say's Phoebe: Knox Co (1) UT Cherokee Farms, 24 Sept (ph, CE, m.ob.) first county record; Davidson Co (1) Shelby Bottoms, Cornelia Fort Air Park, 27 Sept (ph, DP, m.ob.) third county record. There are approximately 20 state records.

Western Kingbird: Shelby Co (12) Ensley, 4 Aug, max (CVN).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Rutherford Co (7) Miller Road, 10 Aug, max (ph, SL); Shelby Co (1) Shelby Farms Park, 30 Oct, lrs (JV, m.ob.).

Bell's Vireo: Shelby Co (1) Shelby Farms Park, 14–15 Aug (CVN, DVN, SHe).

Blue-Headed Vireo: Hardin Co (2) Counce, 25 Aug, ers (DE).

Fish Crow: There were several exceptionally high counts from Blount Co (180) Kyker Bottoms, 23 Oct, max (KF) and (132) Oak View Farm (CB).

Common Raven: Johnson Co (21) Shady Valley Orchard Bog, 22 Oct, max (RB, m.ob.).

Bank Swallow: Obion Co (800) Long Lane Rd, 8 Aug, max (MAG).

Tree Swallow: Cocke Co (3000) Rankin Bottoms, 23 Sept, max (AF).

Purple Martin: Davidson Co (200,000) Nashville, highest estimate reported at downtown roost near the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, 9 Aug (ph, GG, m.ob.); Sumner Co (1) Lock 3 Recreation Area, Oct 9, lrs (ph, TLo).

Cave Swallow: Humphreys Co (1) DRU, 16/19 Aug (RS, ph, WB, m.ob.); Decatur Co (1) TN NWR, Busseltown Unit, 17 Sept (RS); Perry Co (1) Mousetail Landing SP, 17 Sept (RS).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Sullivan Co (1) Warrior's Path SP, 3 Sept, ers (BFi, SQ) notably early date.

Sedge Wren: Humphreys Co (19) DRU, 6 Oct, max (ph, AF).

Marsh Wren: Humphreys Co (17) DRU, 8 Oct, max, (ph, DR, RS).

European Starling: Davidson Co (8000) Nashville, in downtown roost trees, 9 Aug, max (GG); Washington Co (8000) Woodland Village vicinity, max (DH) were tied high counts of a species which is clearly under-counted.

Veery: Humphreys Co (1) Tie Landing, 26 Aug, ers (RS); Benton Co (26) of mostly overhead nocturnal flight calls from Nathan Bedford Forrest SP, 8 Sept (RS); Knox Co (50) nocturnal flight call count, Atlee Fields, 8 Sept, max (KDE).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Knox Co (40) nocturnal flight call count, Atlee Fields, 29 Sept, max (KDE).

Swainson's Thrush: Knox Co (1875) nocturnal flight call count, Atlee Fields of a massive migration event, 8 Sept, max (KDE) nearly triples the previous state high count.

Wood Thrush: Knox Co (20) nocturnal flight call count, Atlee Fields, 2 Oct, max (KDE);

American Pipit: Wilson Co (1) Fall Creek Duck Marsh, 6 Oct, ers (RN, JN).

Red Crossbill: Shelby Co (1) calling flyover, Arlington, 28 Sept (VS, RS, OF); Sevier Co (20) GSMNP, Mt. LeConte, 9 Aug, max (au, RHi).

Pine Siskin: Benton Co (1) Big Sandy River, 10 Oct, ers (DR) earliest report away from the mountains.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Davidson Co (1) Woodlawn Cemetery, 20–22 Oct (ph, NS, BDo, GW) represents an increasingly rare sighting in metropolitan Nashville.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Blount Co (1) Maryville-Alcoa Greenway, 1–5 Oct (ph, EK, m.ob.);

Davidson Co (1) Shelby Park, 6 Oct (ph, GG, m.ob.), and (1) Edwin Warner Park Nature Center, 17 Oct (ph, GG, m.ob.); Humphreys (1) DRU, 17 Oct (RSk); Shelby Co (1) Shelby Farms Park, 6/13/23 Oct (RH, ph, CVN, JC, m.ob.).

Fox Sparrow: Perry Co (1) Stoll Farm, 11 Oct, ers (RS).

Lark Sparrow: Davidson Co (1) Shelby Park, Cornelia Fort Airpark, 29 Aug (ph, AD); Hamilton Co (1) Camp Jordan Park, 9/11 Aug (ph, TL, m.ob.); Humphreys Co (1) DRU 31 Aug / 3 Sept (ph, RS, VS, m.ob.); Obion Co (1) 20 Oct (ph, MAG).

Nelson's Sparrow: Humphreys Co (3) DRU 21 Oct, max (ph, DR, RS) reported regularly from 8 Oct; Shelby Co (2) Shelby Farms Park, Gardener Rd Marsh, 8–24 Oct (m.ob.); Rutherford Co (2) J. Percy Priest WMA, Field Trial Area, 25–26 Oct (ph, AF, m.ob.).

Henslow's Sparrow: Shelby Co (1) Shelby Farms Park, 21–29 Oct (m.ob.), and (2) Eagle Lake Refuge, 21 Oct (ph, CRu); Fentress Co (1) 16 Aug (ph, RSh, DSh); Humphreys Co (1) DRU, 21 Oct (DR, RS).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Shelby Co (3) Shelby Farms Park, 1 Oct (ph, SD, CRu), and Grainger Co (2) at opposite end of the state, 1 Oct (DH, JCo) were the earliest reports.

Swamp Sparrow: Madison Co (300) Middle Fork Bottoms SP, 21 Oct, max (MAG).

Bobolink: Scattered reports of 1–2 birds from Shelby, Humphreys, Rutherford, Hamilton, Marion, and Knox Cos; Monroe Co (4) Cherokee NF, Whigg Meadow, Sept 13, max (TG).

Western Meadowlark: Lake Co (5) Jolly Landing, 28 Oct, max (ph, DR, RS).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Sevier Co (1) Riverwalk Greenway, 18 Oct, lrs (ph, RNi) latest fall date.

Golden-winged Warbler: Davidson Co (1) Radnor Lake, 14 Oct, lrs (ARk).

Tennessee Warbler: Sevier Co (250) large morning flight, GSMNP, Newfound Gap, 1 Oct, max (GK).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Shelby Co (6) Ensley, 22 Oct, max (CRu).

Nashville Warbler: Sevier Co (1) GSMNP, Newfound Gap, 24 Aug, ers (RS).

Connecticut Warbler: rarely detected in fall, there were two reports: Davidson Co (1) Shelby Bottoms Park, Cornelia Fort Airpark, 30 Sept (AD, AC, CD); Anderson Co (1) Melton Lake Islands, 7 Oct (ph, JDa, TDa).

Mourning Warbler: rarely detected in fall, there were several reports: Henry Co (1) Sandy Creek Farms, 31 Aug (RS, VS, MG); Monroe Co (1) Tellico Lake WMA (JDJ); Montgomery Co (1) Liberty Park, 30 Sept (ph, SWo); Rutherford Co (1) Stones River National Battlefield, 5 Sept (ph, CS); Scott Co (1) 21 Sept (BSD); Putnam Co (1) 11 Oct (JF). Several birds banded in the Holston Valley, Sullivan Co (1) 30 Oct (ph, ba, RL), (2) 19 Sept (ba, ph, RL), and (1) 25 Sept (ba, ph, RL).

Cape May Warbler: Sevier Co (1) Bent Creek Golf Course, 23 Oct, lrs (ph, JSi).

Cerulean Warbler: Hamilton Co (4) Lookout Mtn Point Park, 25 Aug, max (BD).

Magnolia Warbler: Davidson Co (52) Shelby Bottoms Park, Cornelia Fort Airpark, 30 Sept, max (RS).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Hamilton Co (1) Craven's House, Lookout Mtn, 18 Aug, ers (TL); Sullivan Co (40) Rooster Front Park, 25 Sept (AN) notably high count; Sevier Co (150) large morning flight from GSMNP, Newfound Gap, 1 Oct, max (GK).

Blackburnian Warbler: Sevier Co (14) dawn flight at GSMNP, Newfound Gap, 25 Aug, max (RS).

Yellow Warbler: Humphreys Co (10) DRU, 6 Aug, max (GG, CAS, MS); Rutherford Co (1) J. Percy Priest WMA Field Trial Area, 11 Oct, lrs (RN, JN).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Union Co (27) Loyston Point Rec Area, 9 Sept, max (BSc); Knox Co (1) Walker Springs Park, 25 Oct, lrs (HC).

Blackpoll Warbler: Two reports of rare fall migrants: Monroe Co (3) caught in mist nets, Cherokee NF, Whigg Meadow, 2 Oct, max (ba, MPe); Sullivan Co (1) Bays Mountain Park, 3 Oct (ph, BFi, SQ).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Sevier Co (13) dawn flight, GSMNP, Newfound Gap, 25 Aug, max (RS); Monroe Co (13) caught in mist nets over an 8-hour period, Cherokee NF, Whigg Meadow, 2 Sept, max (ba, HBr) was the most for that banding table this season. Away from the mountains, there were only 3 reports: Davidson Co (2) Radnor Lake, 22 Sept (DF), and (1) nearby Priest Rd, 1 Oct (ph, CAS); Franklin Co (1) female type, 1 Oct (RCa).

Pine Warbler: Chester Co (40) Chickasaw SP, 10 Sept, max (RS).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Scott Co (1) 3 Sept, ers (BSD); Humphreys Co (86) DRU, 29 Oct (RS) notable high count; Hamilton Co (93) Baylor School, 5 Nov, max (LT).

Townsend's Warbler: Hamilton Co (1) adult female, Point Park, Lookout Mtn, 12–14 Oct (ph, BD, m.ob.). It is the fifth state record and first Hamilton Co record.

Townsend's x Black-throated Green Warbler (hybrid): Rutherford Co (1) rare hybrid photographed at the observer's home, 1 Oct (ph, CS).

Blue Grosbeak: Shelby Co (1) Shelby Farms Park, 26 Oct, lrs (ph, CRu, JV).

Dickcissel: Wilson Co (1) visiting a garden, 27 Oct, lrs (ph, JN, RN).

REFERENCES

[1] 2023 Tennessee State Climate Summary, Tennessee Climate Office, East Tennessee State University, Prepared by William Tollefson and Dr. Andrew Joyner

[2] eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relFeb-2023. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Feb 2023.

[3] *Birds of Tennessee - a New Annotated Checklist*, Scott G. Somershoe and Christopher A. Sloan (2015)

OBSERVERS

AA – Annaliese Ashley
GB – Gary Bailey
WB – Wade Baker
HB – Hugh Barger
JBa – Judith Barrie
KBa – Kathryn Barrow
CB – Christie Bass
KB – Kyle Bess
RB – Robert Biller
TB – Tom Blevins
CBl – Clay Bliznick
MB – Matthew Bowling
JBo – Jeremy Bowman
NB – Natalee Bozzi
BB – Bob Brasher
JB – Jay Brasher
TB – Tammy Bright
HBr – Howard Browers
LB – Lise Brown
KAC – Kevin Calhoun
AC – Andrew Cameron
DC – Debi Campbell
RCa – Richard Candler
SC – Sharon Cardin
JCa – Jonathan Castro
ACh – Alan Chretian
GCh – Glen Chretian
LC – Lisa Clifft
JCo – Jason Cole
RC – Robert Cowan
HC – Howard Cox
WGC– W. G. Criswell
JDa – James Davis
TDa – Tara Davis
JDB – Jonathan DeBalko
EDe –Emilia Deino
JDi – John Diener
SD – Sophie Dismukes
CD – Cassy Dorff
BDo – Brad Dowd
DD – Diana Doyle
BD – Bruce Dralle
KD – Kent DuBois
AD – Ariel Dunham
MD – Marjorie Dunham
RDu – Ray Dunkelberg
BSD – Betty Sue Dunn
DE – Dan Edge
KDE – K Dean Edwards
PRE – Peter R. Engler
CE – Chuck Estes
CF – Clayton Ferrell
JF – Janie Finch
BF – Bambi Fincher
AF – Avery Fish
KF – Kelly Fox
DF – David Francy
OF – Obed Frixzen
MG – Mary Ganaway
GG – Graham Gerdeman
CGi – Clayton Gibb
CG – Colton Gittermann
PG – Paul Grabes
MAG – Mark A. Greene
KG – Kathleen Greeson
TG – Timothy Guida
EH – Emily Hall
LBH – Liz Burton Hamrick
RH – Rob Harbin
SHe – Scott Heppell
DH – Dallas Herrell
PH – Patrick Higgins
RHi – Ryan Hillsley
DHu – Danny Huffine
RHu – Robert Hunt
JH – Jeffrey Hill
BH – Ben Holt
RDH – Ron D. Hoff
TH – Tom Howe
SH – Susan Hubley
WJ – Wolf Jedamski
BJ – Barbara Johnson
CJ – Chris Johnson
JDJ – J.D. Johnson
PJ – Peter Jones
RKe – Rob Keefe
GK – Gina Kent
SKi – Simon Kiacz
EK – Evan Kidd
SK – Sharon Klein
RLK – Richard L. Knight
RK – Roger Kroodsma
RRK – Roy R. Knispel
HK – Helen Kornblum

OBSERVERS

TK – Toby Koosman
TL – Tim Lenz
RL – Richard Lewis
WL – Walker Lincoln
DL – Douglas Logan
TLo – Tim Loyd
AL – Andrew Lydeard
RM – Ronald Manley
BM – Bill Martin
JMD – Jim McDaniel
SMD – Susan McDaniel
PMD – Preston McDonald
RMG – Roy McGraw
DMK – Donald McKenzie
SMN – Stehany McNew
SNM – Susan N. McWhirter
DM – Daniel Moss
DMy – Dollyann Myers
RN – Robin Nation
AN – Adrianna Nelson
HN – Holly Nelson
DN – Denise Neuendorf
RNi – Robin Nichols
TN – Ted Nichols
AN – Adam Nicholson
HN – Harry Norman
MO – Mike O'Malley
AM – Aaron Maizlish
JM – Joe McGuinness
MPe – Mark Perry
PP – Pat Phillips
BPo – Brookie Potter
JPo – Jean Potter
DDP – Dick Preston
RP – Ryan Pudwell
PJP – P.J. Pulliam
SQ – Sherrie Quillen
MR – Michele Ramsey
ER – Eric Ray
DR – Daniel Redwine
LR – Liz Reed
NR – Nancy Robb
DRo – Dave Robinson
TRo – Tammy Ross
CR – Cyndi Routledge
SR – Steve Routledge
ARk – Alexander Rurik
CRu – Cameron Rutt
AR – Aaron Rushin
TRu – Tim Russell
MSa – Mike Sanders
JS – Judy Sawyer
BSc – Beth Schilling
KSe – Katie Sellers
DSh – Debbie Shannon
RSh – Roi Shannon
RSk – Rick Shipkowski
RSv – Ron Shrieve
JSi – Joshua Sims
CAS – Chris Sloan
KS – Kathy Smith
PS – Paige Smith
RSm – Ronda Smith
NS – Nathan Snell
CSo – Christy Soldo
NSo – Norman Soskel
BSt – Bayou Stokes
RS – Ruben Stoll
VS – Victor Stoll
CS – Carole Swann
HT – Holly Taylor
JTa – Jason Taylor
MT – Mark Taylor
NTa – Nathan Taylor
LT – Luke Thompson
JTi – Jack Timmons
JTo – Joseph Torres
AT – Alan Troyer
CVN – Cliff VanNostrand
JV – Jim Varner
TV – Tricia Vesely
SWa – Sean Walters
KW – Kate Watkins
CW – Chris Welsh
RWh – Robert Wheat
MW – Mike Winck
RW – Randy Winstead
GW – Grant Winter
SWo – Stefan Woltmann
SY – Stanley York, Jr.
AY – Austin Young

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